

REMARKS

Claims 3-9 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of October 31, 2003, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled and replaced by new claim 9, claim 9 incorporating all of the limitations of claims 1 and 2. Claims 3-8 have been amended to depend from new claim 9.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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